THE DISSEMINATOR
Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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COLCHESTER-EAST HANTS REGIONAL LIBRARY (CEHRL) CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

On February 23rd, 1998, Colchester-East Hants Regional Library celebrated the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Regional Centennial Memorial Library building, Truro.

The Truro Concert Band played in the auditorium amongst tables of memorabilia, photos of Friends of the Library activities, and summer reading program scrapbooks. Janet Tuff, from the children's department, and three members of the newly formed Junior Friends of the Library ran a coat check for the approximately 150 guests. In both the Children's and Adult reading rooms refreshments were served. It was important that the reception take place in the overcrowded reading rooms so that guests could experience first-hand the space crisis. All departments were open for viewing, including technical and automated services and the branch headquarters in the basement which are usually out of sight to the

public.

Included among the guests were current and former board members and staff, community organizers, mayors, and MLA's for the Colchester-East Hants region, Eleanor Norrie and Brooke Taylor. Local educators and Marion Pape, Provincial Librarian also attended. Jim Thomson, Chairman of the Colchester-East Hants Regional Library Board, announced the creation of the Library Building Fund, which will give the Library Board the means to find a solution to the space crisis. He stressed that the Library needs not only funds, but ideas and time from dedicated volunteers. A highlight of the evening was the "Day in the Life of the Library," a commentary given by Janet Pelley, Regional Library Director, the text of which follows.

A Day in the Life of the Library

"Good evening. I'm delighted to join with you tonight in this celebration.

My connection with this building began 21 years ago when I joined the Library as a newly-minted librarian. The times have changed (!) but the need for public library service has not and in 1998, a typical day in the life of the library goes something like this--

at 8 a.m. : Custodial Staff arrive, turn off the security system; check out the building; and start cleaning washrooms, floors, and carpet prior to Branch opening at 10 a.m.

by 8:15 a.m. : Mobile Library Staff have arrived, loaded files and requested materials for the day and are on the road. Perhaps this is the day they travel as far as Five Islands or maybe they are scheduled to go in the opposite direction as far as Mount Uniacke, in each case they stop at various communities along the way.

If this is a day for Children's Outreach, staff from Children's Services will be on the road to a rural school or to one of our outlying branches to read a story and talk about library reading clubs and the like.

by 9 a.m. : Day shift staff are all on duty and an adult upgrading class is meeting in the Auditorium. Another class, perhaps from Success Business College or the Cobequid Neighbourhood Work Activity Program, may be in for a pre-arranged library orientation session. Our Accounts Administrator is counting yesterday's income from fines and photocopy fees and preparing the day's float for the Adult and Children's circulation desks.

In the reading rooms staff are compiling the previous day's circulation figures; emptying the Book Drop; shelving books, videos, etc; checking their order on the shelves; and turning on the computers ready for the day's searching on the Internet, library catalogue, and special subject databases. If yesterday was an average day, 500 to 600 people came in; over 900 books and other materials were borrowed; a similar number returned; and over 100 questions and special requests fielded.

10 a.m. : The doors open. Daily newspaper readers come in to check the stock market report in the Globe and Mail or to scan the classifieds for job openings. Seniors drop in for a fresh supply of books with large print or to check on the latest magazines. A little later in the morning a school class may arrive for a tour and some instruction on how to find information for school projects. Telephone calls come in -- "Can I renew the loan period for my library books?"; "Can I book time on the Library's computers to search on the Internet?"; "What do I need to do to get on the Internet at home?"; "Do you have the latest book by Tom Clancy?"

12 noon to 1 p.m. : Workers on their lunch hour rush in to find information on how to repair a lawnmower, or how to prepare meals for a family member who has just been diagnosed with diabetes or is recovering from a stroke or heart attack.

At 1 p.m. : Staff working the evening shift begin their day. It's now early afternoon. A volunteer Friend of the Library arrives to pick up a fresh supply of talking books or print books for a home reader whose illness or disability prevents a personal visit to the Library. An upset father, who has just been served divorce papers, comes in seeking some background information on child custody and maintenance law before visiting his lawyer. A profile of a specific company is requested by a person preparing for a job interview. A newcomer to town comes in to join the Library and to learn about what courses, clubs, and support groups are available in her new community.

After 3 p.m. : School is out and the students have arrived --do we have any ideas for a science project? Do we have a poem by Edgar Allen Poe? What is the history of the guillotine and its place in capital punishment? Reporting for duty after school are a couple of the Library's student workers who start to shelve the books, magazines, videos and audio cassettes returned during the day. Their colleagues on the evening shift will continue the process.

Almost 5 p.m. : The day shift is ending. Mobile Library and Children's outreach staff have returned safely. Custodial staff have prepared the Auditorium for an evening rental; the small meeting room is ready for a one-to-one tutoring session or maybe it's the Book Discussion Group this evening; and outgoing mail has been taken to the Post Office.

The day is also ending for Headquarters Staff. Working behind the scenes, they provide the support services, the foundation for all that you see and gain from your library --for example: hiring, training, and supervising Staff; planning, budgeting, and accounting; selecting, ordering, receiving, and processing books, videos, and other library materials; repairing damaged books and withdrawing worn out, dated material from the collections; tracking and, where necessary, billing for lost or overdue books; and last but not least, administering the requests and Interlibrary Loan services which give you direct access to the Regional Library's full collection of over 130,000 items and indirect access to the collections of other libraries in the province and beyond. In addition to all of these activities, we are currently embracing the challenge of adopting and mastering computer technology to help us do our job more effectively.

At 5 p.m. : The Commissionaire reports for duty. Student researchers prepare to go home for supper and business slows down for an hour or so.

At 6:30 p.m. : The meeting rooms start to fill up and business picks up in the library. Families begin to arrive. Youngsters find their way into the Children's Reading Room to check out the hottest new paperbacks or books on dinosaurs and to explore the latest web sites for kids on the Internet. In the Adult Reading Room teens try to complete their school projects in time to meet the teacher's deadline and parents search for a book or video to help with that overdue home improvement project; perhaps a family or business trip is being planned and a travel guide to Florida is needed. The evening passes quickly and there's now just enough time to find a good mystery, or maybe it's a western or science fiction story -- something for those moments when one can escape from the pressures and fast pace of the day.

It's now 8:45 p.m. : The Commissionaire announces fifteen minutes to closing. There's a flurry of activity at the circulation desks; the meeting rooms empty out and then at 9:00 p.m. all is quiet. Doors are locked and staff leave for home; the Commissionaire checks the building and turns on the security system as he leaves. A day in the life of the Library is over!"
-- Janet Pelley, Colchester-East Hants (see photo at right).

PICTOU-ANTIGONISH REGIONAL LIBRARY - BOOKS BY WEB PROJECT

Books By Mail is a mail-out service offered to rural residents of Pictou and Antigonish counties who may not be able to access a town library in their area. The goals of the project were to promote the BBM service to as many users as possible and to re-design the BBM web pages so that more services could be offered online.The service began in 1991 as an alternative to the bookmobile service within the Pictou-Antigonish counties. Today, the BBM library has two staff members and boasts a collection of over 13,000 books and audio tapes. Material in this collection is available for all library users as it is considered to be another "branch library" within PARL's system. BBM obtains materials for its users from its library, other branch libraries as well as interlibrary loan.

In October of 1997, the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL) undertook a special project to market Books By Mail (BBM) to rural users through the Internet and expand the existing BBM Internet

service. Ellen Crumley, a Dalhousie School of Library and Information Services student, provided a lot of the creativity and energy required to see this project through. A total of sixty-seven Internet Surveys were completed. The survey increased public awareness of the public libraries in Pictou and Antigonish Counties and promoted the existing services already on the Internet.

A Selection of Survey Findings

1. All but two respondents had e-mail addresses. Ninety percent of those surveyed indicated the library can contact them via e-mail..

2. The majority of respondents used both e-mail and the web on a regular basis.

3. About one-third indicated familiarity with PDF (portable document files) and about two-thirds had downloaded software, graphics and/or files from the Internet.

4. Over half indicated they 'd be interested in taking an Internet class run by the library.

5. Almost one-half indicated they had access to the Internet at another location besides the library, with most being at schools and community access sites (CAP- Industry Canada).

6. About half the respondents knew that the library catalogue is already available on the Internet.

Using the Results

The Survey results indicated that Internet users wanted a library site that they could "use" rather than simply find information about the organization. With this in mind, the Regional Library's overall web site was redesigned with two separate sections, one for adults and one for kids. A special page providing links for teens was also added. Interactive forms were developed, and current book and video lists and the Books By Mail Catalogues are now available online as PDF (portable document files). The Children's Summer Reading Program will also be run through the Internet during the summer of 1998, allowing rural children to participate online and electronically register the books they have read. One feature to note especially is ParlNews. This electronic mailing list allows PARL staff to keep in regular contact with their library web site users. The completed web pages may be seen at http://www.parl.ns.ca

LIBRARY AUTOMATION

Web Gateway for NcompasS

NcompasS will be running on the first module of DRA's new web based TAOS software. This was recently presented to the automation working group and Provincial Library staff. Testing is underway with regional libraries across the province. Training key library staff will take place during the next few weeks. In Spring, 1998, this interface to NcompasS will become the official access at all regional library public access terminals. This represents a quantum leap forward in capability allowing patrons to search multiple library catalogues from any location. In addition, for the

first time, it will combine simultaneous multi database searching capability. At long last, the Provincial Library vision of establishing a single window view of Nova Scotia resources is beginning to become a reality. You can access the TAOS database at http://142.227.59.10/html/ and click on the OK icon to get the first search screen.

Regional Libraries

The catalogue for the former Halifax City Regional Library, which has been on NcompasS since 1994, has now been deleted as have the catalogues of the former Dartmouth and Halifax County Regional Libraries. All databases residing on NcompasS are now current. In the continuing implementation of automating regional libraries, the Collection Exchange and Acquisition modules of the DRA/MultiLIS integrated library software have been implemented in Annapolis Valley and Western Counties Regional Libraries respectively. Circulation has already been automated in both these regions. The conversion of Colchester-East Hants manual records is now complete and their electronic records are being loaded into their own bank. The manual records of South Shore and Cape Breton Regional Libraries which are not already on NcompasS, are now being converted at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. Consultation with EDnet and MT&T is underway regarding automating the 10 mobile branches, outside the Halifax region, using cellular connections to NcompasS.

Forty-four 486 Computers for Nova Scotia Public Libraries

Nova Scotia public libraries have recently received twenty-four 486 recycled computers from the Industry Canada Computers for Schools and Libraries program. Industry Canada has been setting aside 486 recycled computers for libraries across Canada and since January have shipped them to the Northwest Territories, Québec, Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. An addtional twenty 486 computers are being received through the Nova Scotia Technology Recycling Program and will be distributed in the very near future. This will provide much needed additional public access to the Internet in branch libraries across the province.

INFORMATION RIGHTS WEEK, MARCH 30 - APRIL 5, 1998

March 30 - April 5, 1998 has been announced by the Canadian Library Association (CLA) as the fifth annual Information Rights Week. CLA believes that the convergence of computers and high-speed telecommunications networks provides an increased opportunity for public access to information and participation in the democratic processes of society. Conversely, access and participation may be reduced through the imposition of user fees and monopoly control. Nova Scotia Provincial Library is currently collecting names of partners for a proclamation that will be printed and distributed widely. If you would like your organization to be included on the proclamation please contact the Provincial Library. Posters will also be distributed to whoever would like them. Please email Carole Compton-Smith at compto[illegible]a@gov.ns.ca for more information.

A FORUM ON TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE CULTURAL SECTOR

Andrew Terris, Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Cultural Network, acted as the moderator for a panel of policy makers and funders from the cultural sector at a forum held on February 23, 1998. At the afternoon workshop it was pointed out that those involved in the cultural sector are not typically employed workers. They are more often self-employed artists, musicians or writers. They are often people who are working on more than one contract at a time and obtain contracts by a "living resume" that is an audition or portfolio presentation. Jean-Phillipe Tabet, Executive Director, Cultural Human Resources Council, Ottawa pointed out that skills typically used in the workforce, e.g. business management, marketing and time management skills are not the type of skills that the creative worker has studied and suggested that we should take heed of a saying by Marshall McLuhan that what is required is "learning a living."

For example, its important to know where to get help with the business and marketing skills required, and its useful to know about organizations such as the Nova Scotia Arts Council, which is a crown agency that has some funding for training projects for the creative sector. Another specific place to go for assistance is the Community Economic Development Division of N.S. Dept. of Economic Development and Tourism which has project executives who will work with small co-ops or individual artists to ensure that their businesses thrive. Much of the discussion has relevance for the recent library and information science graduates of today, many of whom work at several different library positions at the same time. They may well see themselves as becoming part of the entrepreneurial group that takes on writing and indexing assignments as well as being regularly employed. -- Carole Compton-Smith.

A REPORT ON CHANGES IN THE PUBLIC AND SCHOOL LIBRARY MARKET

The Atlantic Publishers Marketing Association and the Association of Canadian Publishers sponsored a half-day seminar on February 23rd in Halifax to discuss changes in the public and school library market across Canada. The focus of the seminar was Pat Cavill's recent report entitled "Transition: changes in the public and school library market". A number of public and school library representatives were in attendance, including Marion Pape, the Provincial Librarian. The Canadian publishing industry is concerned about the downturn in sales to schools and public libraries as a result of decreases in materials budgets and the increase in purchases of electronic information sources among other things.

Although the study focused on the situation in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario, similarities can be seen across the country. In the Atlantic Provinces, public library acquisition budgets are decreasing, there are severe reductions in budgets for school library materials and school librarians are being taken out of the library thus weakening the quality of library acquisitions. Many ideas were discussed about ways to increase awareness and to support library development. A small group representing school and public libraries together with representatives from the Nova Scotia Writers Federation and the Atlantic Publishers Marketing Association will meet to discuss common strategies. A copy of the report by Pat Cavill and Mark Bodnar is available in the professional collection at Nova Scotia Provincial Library.

AMICUS DATABASE ACQUIRES 8 MILLION RECORDS

The National Library of Canada announced recently that it had added eight million bibliographic records from A-G Canada Limited to its AMICUS database. These records represent the holdings of 46 Canadian libraries, to bring the total number of library files to approximately 546. The records are part of the CATSS database that was acquired by A-G Canada Limited from ISM Information Systems Management in 1997. Under the terms of the purchase agreement between the National Library and A-G Canada, the National Library now has the right to load the records into AMICUS as part of the national union catalogue and to provide access to the records for resource-sharing purposes through Access AMICUS, a service to which the Nova Scotia Provincial Library subscribes. Also covered by the agreement is the reciprocal exchange of new records and the designation of A-G Canada's database as a node in the virtual Canadian union catalogue (vCuc).

TRAINING

InfoTrac Training

Gillian Webster and Carole Compton-Smith visited the Colchester East-Hants Regional Library on February 9. A group of twenty plus staff, from the branches and the bookmobile took part in the Infotrac database training. Andrea Halverson from the Infotrac Company offered three training sessions at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library on February 12 and 13. These sessions were enjoyed by all who attended. The Halifax Regional Library has been taking advantage of Infotrac database training offered through the Provincial Library during February. Now if only we could have perfect online connections for these resources. Some regions are still experiencing connection difficulties. Suggestions for overcoming these include upgrading the winsock connections for those who have Windows 3.11 and for those who have Windows 95 or NT, try upgrading the version of Netscape to 4.0. If you would like any assistance, please e-mail Michael Gillis at gillisme@nshpl.library.ns.ca

Canadian Periodicals Index

A demonstration of the web version of Canadian Periodicals Index took place at the Provincial Library on February 25th for regional library reference staff. Plans are underway to try out this database as well as a few other Gale products available through a Web interface. The P.E.I. Provincial Library is also interested in CPI/Gale products. The trials will probably take place during late Spring.

LibraryNet Project Takes Off

The LibraryNet project of Nova Scotia began moving forward with the goal of providing Internet training for staff and public at regional public libraries. The Nova Scotia Provincial Library and the following regional libraries, Annapolis Valley, Pictou-Antigonish, Western, Eastern Counties, and Cumberland as well as the Advisory Council on the Status of Women (Sydney, Cape Breton office) are taking part. The funding comes from an Industry Canada grant in partnership with Nova Scotia Provincial Library. With 10 youth workers hired throughout the province for eight weeks, many new initiatives are starting to take shape.

Most of the regional libraries have focused on having their Internet workers conduct training programs about the Internet and E-mail for library staff and the general public. Some workers will also be updating or creating web pages. Over the next week or two, the two workers placed at the Provincial Library will have completed an Internet Training Handbook to be made available at the nine regional libraries and seventy five branch libraries in Nova Scotia. The purpose of the Handbook is to provide quick and easy access to resources about Internet policy, advocacy and training to library staff. As the project progresses, "Success Stories" will be collected from the Internet workers about positive developments and partnerships that will be happening in their regions. -- Craig J. Cormier.

STAFFING NEWS

New Canadian Library Association (CLA) Director

Vicki Whitmell has been appointed as the new Executive Director of CLA, starting in April 1998. The search committee were unanimous in their decision, and Ms. Whitmell said in a press release that she looked forward to working with the membership. The new Director comes to the CLA from the Joseph L. Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto, where she has held the position of Chief Librarian since 1990. Since receiving her MLS in 1984, Ms. Whitmell has served on the CLA Task Force on Credentialism and held several executive positions with the Toronto Association of Law Librarians.

LINKed

This month's Linked column will focus on some of the better Internet sites which I have come across for Young Adult Literature, particularly Canadian YA literature.

How Novel!, http://strobe.lights.com/novel/index.html is an online resource produced by the Saskatoon Public Library that brings together information on Canadian fiction written for young adults aged 12 - 18. Resources available include cover art, annotations, reviews and publisher information for approximately 500 novels, as well as author photographs and biographies for around 150 authors.

The Children's Literature Web Guide at http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/ is an attempt to gather together and categorize the growing number of Internet resources related to books for Children and

Young Adults. There are links to book reviews, lists of notable/award winning books, author's pages, children's book publishers and discussion groups. The Children's Literature Web Guide is the work of David K. Brown, Director of the Doucette Library of Teaching Resources, University of Calgary.

Bookworld at http://www.marmus.ca/kpl/kpteenbl.htm#bookworld is accessible from the **Teenlinks** site http://www.marmus.ca/kpl/KPteenbl.htm of Kingston Public Library, Kingston, Ontario. It has links to author and fan homepages, lists of recommended reading, a Banned Books Page which lists books which have been challenged in schools, libraries and bookstores in the past 15 years and Literary links for young writers.

A forum for Young Adult fiction from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and The Netherlands is provided at **Viewpoint: On Books for Young Adults** at http://www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/LLAE/viewpoint/volume5/index.htm. **Viewpoint: On Books for Young Adults** is a journal published by the Department of Language, Literacy & Arts Education, The University of Melbourne. At the Internet site you will find an archive of the table of contents of issues going back to 1993. Unfortunately there is no way to search all of these issues at once for an author or title. The site has information on upcoming events such as conferences, links to other Young Adult literature sites and a page where readers can comment on Young Adult books. If you have any suggestions about future topics for this column please contact me at cmorris@nshpl.library.ns.ca -- Carol Morris

REFERENCE ON THE NET

More reference questions referred to the Provincial Library by the regional public libraries which were answered from resources found on the Internet:

Q. Borrower would like the text of the poem "Terminus" by Ralph Waldo Emerson.

A. This poem was found at the site of the **University of Michigan Humanities Text Initiative American Verse Project** http://www.hti.umich.edu/english/amverse/index.html which is an electronic archive of volumes of American poetry prior to 1920. To get a copy of "Terminus" click on "Simple Searches" and at the search page enter the keyword "Terminus".

Q. Is it true that hummingbirds hitch rides on geese or ducks?

A. A search using the keyword "hummingbirds" was done at the **Savvy Search** site http://www.cs.colostate.edu/~dreiling/smartform.html which queries multiple internet search engines simultaneously. This located the award-winning **Hummingbirds** site at http://www.derived.com/hummers/frames/welcome.html and if you click on "Natural History" here you will find a Question & Answer section which includes the patron's question and the answer which is that this is a bit of folklore with no basis in fact. -- Carol Morris.

PROFESSIONAL READING

In this month's column, two video programs are featured. These items can be borrowed through the regular interlibrary loan channels:

1. Canada. Health Canada. **Welcome to Parenting: the First Six Years.** Ottawa: Health Canada,1997. Two video cassettes (VHS); English and French versions; 125 minutes each. (Call # 649.1 Wel)

This video is a 5 part series on healthy child development (birth to six years) and parenting. Key information and helpful tips are presented through a creative mixture of parent and child interactions, parent interviews, humorous skits, parent groups and animation. Five segments of this video program include such features as *parents are people too*, *your child's body*, *your child's mind*, *your child's safety* and *your child's behaviour*.

2. **For Freedom's Sake**. Towson, MD: American Library Association Video / Library Video Network, 1996. Videocassette (VHS); 25 minutes; (Call # 025 .213 For)

For Freedom's Sake explains the historical and philosophical significance of intellectual freedom and then allows viewers to respond to possible situations in a non threatening atmosphere. The second part of the tape features vignettes to which library staff members can react. After an intellectual freedom situation is depicted, viewers stop the tape and react to the scene. Possible solutions are then presented.

3. **The Health and Vitality of the Cultural Sector in Nova Scotia**, has recently been released by Statistics Canada. This study documents the economic growth of the cultural sector of the province from 1990-1995. The report bases its definition of the "Cultural sector" on the UNESCO Framework For Cultural Statistics. The definition of this sector includes: written media, the film industry, broadcasting, the music industry, stage performances, heritage, libraries, visual arts and crafts, festivals, arts and culture education, architecture, design, photography, advertising, government and multidisciplinary activities. In each category, the economic impact of all functions, including the production and distribution, manufacturing, wholesale and retail of cultural goods and services are assessed. This document will soon be available for lending from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library Professional Collection.--Frank Oram (email: oramfl@gov.ns.ca)